

The Electric Mercury

U.S. Army Medical Command Electronic News Summary, August 2000

**For more on these and other important stories, see August 2000 printed issue of The Mercury.
This is a service of the Public Affairs Office, Headquarters MEDCOM.**

President picks Peake

President Bill Clinton nominates MG (P) James B. Peake for promotion to lieutenant general with assignment as Surgeon General of the Army and commander of Medical Command. Peake will continue as acting MEDCOM commander and MG Patrick Sculley as acting Surgeon General until Peake's nomination is confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Anthrax shots delayed

Due to a vaccine shortage, anthrax shots temporarily will be limited to service members at greatest risk, i.e., those serving in or about to deploy to Southwest Asia or Korea. Others who have started the series can resume later without starting over, experts say.

Transformation: planners seek light, powerful Army

Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee. That line by boxer Muhammad Ali is not exactly how Army leaders describe the future Army, but it might be. Chief of Staff GEN Eric Shinseki wants a transformed Army that will be able to deploy quickly like light infantry but punch like heavy armor. MG Robert S. St. Onge Jr. outlines what this means for the Association of the U.S. Army Medical Symposium and Exhibition in San Antonio.

Magazine lauds value of TRICARE Senior Prime

Consumer Reports magazine gives top rating for value in two cities to TRICARE Senior Prime (TSP), DoD's demonstration version of a Medicare health-maintenance organization. The June issue rated the value of Medicare HMOs in 30 cities, including Seattle and Denver, where two of DoD's six TSP demonstration sites are located.

DoD cooperates on patient safety...aims to fix errors, not blame

Third installment in *The Mercury's* series on Quality Medicine relates how the Defense Department works to cut medical errors within the framework of a Quality Interagency Coordination (QuIC) Task Force and is focusing on fixing problems, rather than blame, so as to foster honest reporting of "near misses" as well as actual injuries to patients.

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Other important stories in the August *Mercury* include:

- Labor Day holiday safety for Army Medical Department people is uppermost in the mind of MG (P) James B. Peake in his first column as acting MEDCOM commander.
- COL Jan Harris, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, wins Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee Award, presented by the Daughters of the American Revolution.
- Article/photos tell how two Walter Reed Army Medical Center surgeons are helping pioneer use of deep-brain stimulation surgery to relieve symptoms of Parkinson's disease.
- Thai village mayor kisses Army dentist who has just pulled his teeth, as 200 Thai citizens receive badly needed medical care during Exercise Cobra Gold 2000.
- Brooke Army Medical Center urologists complete third Medical Readiness Training Exercise in Honduras, getting outstanding training while helping many patients.
- Eight Army pharmacy officers, enlisted soldiers and civilian workers receive awards during 2000 Combined Forces Pharmacy Symposium in Biloxi, Miss., in April.
- Ethelyn Dirl Temple, chief of internal review at Womack Army Medical Center, receives AMEDD Auditor of the Year Award during June 1 ceremony.
- Four AMEDD officers are members of Army Triathlon Team that wins Armed Forces championship at Fort Eustis, Va., in June.
- Veterinary-services SFC Lori Greco, Fort Hood, spends free time preparing for and competing in 50- and 100-mile endurance riding races on her Polish Arabian horse Paige.
- Photos show (1) soldiers search concrete rubble for simulated casualties of a terrorist attack during six-day, 1,500-person exercise at Fort Gordon, Ga.; (2) soldiers from Heidelberg Army Hospital work with police and German Red Cross ambulance crew in mass-casualty exercise; (3) 1LT John Slevin, Army physician assistant, examines elderly Serbian woman during medical civil-assistance program in Kosovo.
- The Army Structure creates framework to tie all aspects of Army suicide-prevention efforts – including leaders at all levels and numerous helping agencies – together.
- Commentary by CPT Barbara Lockbaum, William Beaumont Army Medical Center, on how soldiers can improve their home life with better time management.
- Carol L. Bartoschek, community dental hygienist and health-promotion director at Wuerzburg, Germany, DENTAC, is highlighted in "Caring beyond the call of duty."